

# ACORN



## **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario**

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
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**SUMMER 1981**

#### **The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter**

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|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
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| Contributing Editor: | Peter John Stokes  |

##### **The Cover**

###### **The Macaulay House c. 1830, Picton**

###### **Prince Edward County**

The official opening of this historic house, restored and furnished to c. 1855, was held on the 27th June, 1981, to mark yet another step in the conservation of an important historic site in Prince Edward's county town, Picton. The site now comprises the old church of St. Mary Magdalene nearby converted to the County Museum and an adjoining conservation area including part of the eminence known locally as Macaulay's Mountain. The complex is now to be known as Macaulay Heritage Park.

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## EDITORIAL

### **"There was a child went forth"**

In his address to the Convocation of the University of Toronto for conferring of Bachelor's degrees in Landscape Architecture, Architecture and Education, on June 12, 1981, Professor William Rock Jr., Chairman, Department of Landscape Architecture quoted a few lines from Walt Whitman.

While we cannot use his address in full, we are using four of the most significant values which, to his mind, might be imparted by a University education.

- (1) to challenge, generate and provoke thought and ideas through a process of individual inquiry, introspection, analysis and criticism which hopefully leads to individual excellence and improvement of the overall society.
- (2) to educate individuals in a cultural ideal that stresses pluralism and democracy as its goals.
- (3) to stress dialogue and informed conversation, the necessary instruments by which a pluralistic society reaches a workable consensus together with personal involvement and commitment to achieve these goals for the common good. Reasoned conversation or stimulating, informed dialogue is the process through which we create meaningful forms of symbolic life that eventually dominate our collective conscience and infuse our culture.
- (4) A fourth value of a university education is to foster attitudes of community, cooperation and social agreement drawing upon shared experiences. John Dewey points out that 'community' constitutes the idea of democracy itself; it is a term that describes a life of full and enriching communion with one another. In a truly democratic society, mutual cooperation rather than unbridled competition is necessary if all are to prosper within a supportive, challenging community.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In April, the Toronto Branch held a very successful one day seminar entitled "City House Inside/Out". The speakers were Martin Weaver and Chris Pelham from Heritage Canada, and they obviously gave an audience of over 200 a great deal of the type of information they were hoping for. It was also evident that the Conservancy was reaching a different segment of the population — perhaps people interested in the practical aspects of conservation more than the aesthetic.

The seminar also marked the first use of our new brochure. We hope that this will successfully illustrate to many prospective members the scope and importance of the Conservancy's interest. Members will note that the cover again bears the words "Take care for the Common-Weale". Those who attended our last Annual General Meeting will recall that Professor Eric Arthur asked for and received support for the re-introduction and use of this theme. Professor Arthur expressed the belief that this term clearly described the concerns of the Conservancy.

Together with the brochure, membership application forms were printed for those branches desiring a new form in keeping with the brochure.

The Newburgh monograph continues to get closer to publication. It has been extensively edited by Peter John Stokes and carefully reviewed by Howard Walker. Final drafts have been printed and bound by Wentworth Walker. He has also requested and received — a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Culture & Recreation, via Wintario, to assist in the publishing.

The intense amount of work involved in the above project makes us appreciate even more the accomplishment of one of our members. In April a book entitled "Historic Streetscapes of Huron County" was published. It was both written and beautifully illustrated by Nicholas Hill of Goderich. I would highly recommend it to our members.

We have received a number of requests for assistance from the Advisory Board. In May, Donna Baker, A. K. Sculthorpe, Peter John Stokes, and I met with members of the Haldimand Ratepayers Association. We examined the Village Store and the Township Hall in Grafton. Both of these simple structures, in basically sound and original condition are critical to the main intersection of this small but interesting town. A report has been written by Peter John Stokes and distributed to the Ratepayers Association, the Reeve and other interested bodies. The store which has been empty for months may be taken over for use as a post office. We are encouraging its preservation and sympathetic renovation.

Early in June, A. K. Sculthorpe and I met with Mrs. Lawrence and the senior members of St. Mary's Church in Manvers Township. This delightfully sited church is largely original but is suffering from movement in the foundation due to the actions of dampness and frost. We have forwarded to them a report with recommendations for corrective work and suggestions for restoration of some elements of the exterior.

The Ministry of Transportation continues to submit, for comment, their plans for highway changes. Peter John Stokes untiringly responds to these with incisive appraisal and criticism. His personal knowledge of almost every stretch of road involved in these changes is awe inspiring.

Finally, the months of May and June have brought two exciting proposals from the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr. Allan White, the Ministry has outlined to interested organizations, such as ours, a concept of a "Heritage House" where each could have offices and where meeting rooms, storage, and display areas would be available. It was first hoped that the George Brown house in downtown Toronto would be available, but this now appears unlikely. Other potential sites are being explored. The second proposal is to support the establishment of a permanent museum for display of Architectural "Fragments". This will very likely be sited at the Guild Inn where Spencer Clark has single-handedly saved many fragments from Toronto's major buildings and has set many of these in the grounds of the Hotel. Further meetings are planned with the Ministry and we will report further in the next "Acorn".

William J. Moffet

## NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST from the Branches

### TORONTO REGION

On Thursday, May 21st, in the East Common Room of Hart House, University of Toronto, William Dendy presented his first lecture in a two-part series on *The Masseys and Their Architects*.

There was a tour first of Hart House and then the Annual Meeting of the Branch.

The new officers are:

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| <i>President</i>        | Maureen Spratley |
| <i>Vice-President</i>   | Joan Grierson    |
| <i>Secretary</i>        | Tanny Wells      |
| <i>Treasurer</i>        | Hillary Stoddart |
| <i>Publications</i>     | Jean Stewart     |
| <i>Members-at-Large</i> | Bill Dendy       |
|                         | Spencer Higgins  |
|                         | Howard Levine    |
|                         | Herb Stovel      |

*Past President*  
*Staff*

Donna Baker  
Anna McCoy

On Sunday, June 7th, the Branch had a tour to London, Ontario to join the London group on their "Old North Walkabout" and had a private tour of Theatre London first, a picnic in the park — it was a beautiful day . . . and then a marvelous tour of houses and buildings . . . arriving home at 7 p.m. happy and safe.

### HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

#### Open House

You are invited to an Open House at the Rockwood Academy, Rockwood, on September 12, 1981, at 1:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. Admission \$3.00



per person - \$2.50 for Senior Citizens. Tea is served at a cost of \$2.50 per person. This historic building is over 130 years old. It was one of the first residential schools in Ontario. It has been restored by Yosef Drenters RCA with the help of the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

### **Fall House Tour**

Saturday, October 17th, is the day we hope everyone will come to Cambridge for our House Tour. Several beautiful and interesting homes will be on view, and tea will be served in the afternoon. Autumn colors should be at their best then to further enhance our historic town and lovely countryside. So do plan to come on October 17th.

### **Cambridge Heritage Policy**

The city of Cambridge is reviewing its official plan this year and a heritage conservation policy is to be part of it. This is a most positive step. The present plan has a very limited section on heritage conservation. Heritage Cambridge and LACAC have made presentations, and Heritage Cambridge has provided a sum of money to the city to assist in hiring a consultant to undertake studies on heritage buildings and districts so as to provide the basis for a heritage policy. Mr. Paul Dilse who has done previous work of this nature has been engaged. A series of discussion papers is being published, and it is hoped that the city will designate heritage conservation districts which could be outlined in the city plan. People are beginning to realize that Cambridge has whole neighbourhoods and streetscapes, as well as individual buildings, which are worthy of conservation.

### **Members in the News**

Two former presidents of Heritage Cambridge have reflected some lustre on our branch. Bill Barlow is now our member at Queen's Park as he won a seat for the Conservatives in the recent provincial election and now represents Cambridge.

Pat Rosebrugh was re-elected chairman of the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation. Pat was our first president and is well known for her heritage work.

### **The Lutz House**

This winter the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Cambridge have been restoring and refurbishing one of the few small stone buildings still standing on the riverbank of what was downtown Galt. It is a designated building, and was once owned by Morris C. Lutz, the first mayor of Galt.

Mr. Lutz came to Galt in 1844 and was active in public affairs for many years. We are glad to see this unpretentious stone building, attractive in its simplicity, still standing by busy Water Street to remind us of our past. Heritage Cambridge made a donation to assist with the work of restoration.

### **Preston School Apartments**

June 7th was a happy day for heritage-minded people in Cambridge. That was the day the opening ceremonies were held for the "new" senior citizens' apartment complex in what was Preston Public School. That splendid stone building was so nearly lost that it was a day of wonder to see it refurbished and recycled and already in use again. As the history of the long struggle to save it has been told before it is enough to report that it still stands, and is beginning new years of service.

### **April Meeting**

Heritage Cambridge was fortunate to have Mrs. Elizabeth Ingolfsrud come to our April meeting. Mrs. Ingolfsrud is the author of several books about Ontario furniture, and is the Ontario consultant for the History Division of the National Museum of Man in Ottawa. She presented a most interesting illustrated lecture on "19th Century Ontario Furniture and Related Architecture". The meeting was an outstanding event for us.

### **The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce**

One of Cambridge's finest buildings has taken a new lease on life after being sympathetically renovated by the bank. Called the Commercial building, it was built in 1850 and has housed Galt banks for over 120 years. The Bank of Commerce has been in the building since the 1860s. In 1885 there was a ballroom on the second floor (removed some time ago) to celebrate the arrival of the first railway to Galt, the Great Western Railway. For some years the south wing housed the law firm founded by Judge William Miller, the first judge in Waterloo County.

As an individual building the Commercial Building is important for the quality of its stone work and design. It is divided horizontally by string courses which run between each storey; a heavy cornice tops the building. The smooth limestone at the corner (a later modification) forms a graceful curve which makes the building unusual. It has now been completely recycled to include the most modern and up-to-date building services, banking services, and electronic cash handling. New windows have been installed, but

otherwise the exterior presents the same imposing façade as it has for over a hundred years. The official "reopening" took place on May 9th and Heritage Cambridge was most happy to be on hand.

### Afternoon in June

The weather was perfect on Saturday, June 20th, when Heritage Cambridge members met for an outdoor meeting at the home of Dave and Mollie Ross. Their lovely old stone house is set in extensive gardens and both were wandered through at will during the afternoon. Huge trees offered a choice of sun or shade when the time came to listen to the guest speaker, Mr. Frank Hawley of Niagara-on-the-Lake, who gave a most interesting and knowledgeable talk on the restoration and care of older homes. Following this a delicious tea was set out in the dining room where guests helped themselves, — many returning to the garden to eat. A delightful way to end this season, and a reminder that such country homes as this are just as important a part of our heritage as city streetscapes.

## BRANT COUNTY

### Downtown

Brantford's Downtown Revitalization Scheme has moved ahead with the promise of a further million plus from the Ministry of Housing.

However, the developer, Campeau Corporation, has not yet come up with all the requirements to meet the agreement with the City. In the meantime the Colborne Street streetscape continues to deteriorate or to have its older buildings uncomfortably modernized. Absentee landlords are a large part of the problem.

### Survey

A small committee continues to update the survey done by students in 1978. Our eventual aim is to complete photographs, maps, and records for every structure in the county. Records are being sent to the Planning Board of the City of Brantford.

### Awards

Awards have been given this spring to the C. Malcolm house at 24 Egerton (residential), Thorpe Funeral Home at 96 West Street (commercial), the L. Wehrstein residence, St. George (residential), and Brant Avenue United Church Manse, 135 Brant Avenue (residential).

## Losses and Threats

The King Edward school, awaiting sale by the Brant County Board of Education, was almost completely destroyed by fire on June 13, 1981. The school was built in 1890 and was an imposing structure with Neo-Romanesque details.

### Program

The March general meeting featured Mr. Gerry Musselman, Architect, as speaker. The topic was "Preserving the Preston Schoolhouse." He emphasized the historical and architectural significance of the school, and outlined the efforts of demolition groups as opposed to those struggling for preservation. Mr. Musselman made several telling points helpful to groups intent upon preservation: his suggestions were that preservation groups be sure of their position; that they avoid confrontation and premature press releases; that alternative options be sought for the structure one is trying to save, and an economically viable use found for it. He also suggested an "everyone wins" solution so that opposition to preservation can be cut down or eliminated.

Also in March, a mini-tour of an 1870's home at 24 Egerton in the Dufferin area drew an interested group of visitors. Unlike many homes chosen for an award by the Conservancy, 24 Egerton has been modernized on the exterior by the removal of a front porch. This removal alters the original proportion of the building. The home has a centre-hall plan, symmetrical windows either side of a prominent front door, and a roof-gable centre front. There is a half-storey with low front windows and a centre window in the gable which are given prominence by the removal of the porch. The latter, however, was very close to the street.

Internal changes to the residence have made use of wasted space and have turned the structure into a livable and gracious residence. An arched door in Romanesque Revival vein leads into a central hall which is flanked by a reception area to the left and a workroom-den to the right. A deep stairwell area has been lined by books and is centered with a small desk. To the left of this area the main parlour contains a number of antiques as well as comfortable sofas and chairs for seating. There is a well-proportioned bay with rounded window-heads.

The rear wing of the house contains a dining room with outside entrance beside a modern kitchen with an enclosed porch to the rear. The latter is a charming retreat overlooking the

garden. There is also a second set of stairs to the second floor.

Simple detail of door and window mouldings is highlighted by appropriate colour schemes in white and grey. Antiques of outstanding quality enhance the basic charm of this small house. A building date before 1875 has been established by the owners.

Audrey Scott presented the appropriate award for restoration and preservation of an older residence to Martha Malcolm, who shares the house with her mother. Efforts at landscaping were also recognized.

A successful mini-tour of St. George was held in April. The group of about 20 people was met at the South Dumfries Township Offices, 3 Main Street, St. George by Mrs. Janice Eddy and Mrs. Barbara Miller, representing the local Council. Mrs. Joyce Wehrstein, explained the history of the building. It was built in 1888 as a home by Dr. E. E. Kitchen. Many delightful parties and social events were held here in the old days. The mansion is reported to have been built at a cost of \$14,000.00.

Now converted into Municipal Offices, the building contained a drawing room, dining room, kitchen and reception room on the main floor, as well as the graciously-proportioned hall. The main kitchen was in the basement. The building was used as a nursing home for twenty years and purchased by the Township only one-and-a-half years ago.

A tour of the premises revealed a number of outstanding architectural details. The main hall is graced with a staircase and gallery decorated with a balustrade of heavy proportions, supported by balusters arranged in pairs and carved in an unique design of squares and bulbs. The newel post also bears an intricate design carved with a variety of motifs. High ceilings are set off by diamond-patterned plaster inserts setting off the chandeliers. That in the hall is an intricate example, with fluted glass shades as a special feature.

Exterior details of round arches, heavy sills and corner entrance tower, plus the rounded bow with balcony above on the left side of the main façade are in the Romanesque Revival style popular in the late nineteenth century.

The tour of Main Street, St. George, which followed was introduced by a slide presentation. Mrs. Joyce Wehrstein was the commentator. Slides and script were prepared in 1978 by Mr. Jeff Cook.

Audrey Scott of the Conservancy added comments about the architecture.

Fortunately for architecture buffs and for the citizens of St. George, the east side of Main Street is very close to the street as planned by the town forefathers. A five-bay (sets of windows) stone building, known as the Howell Block, heads the street on the south. Original photographs show two symmetrical storefronts broken by a door to the upper floors. Stone was brought from Glen Morris for the 1891 building's construction.

A stucco building is next on the street. Originally of brick and with a storefront of large glass panes, it was built as a funeral parlour in 1880 by David Reid. Beside the central gable, a stepped false front is reminiscent of the old West.

An interesting brick building is next on the street. It is divided into two sections. That on the right at first glance seems unrelated to the section on the left where original arched glass storefronts with large mullioned panes remain. However the right-hand part of the building is linked to the left with a decorative cornice at the top. The latter returns the eye to street level after neatly cutting off building and sky. (Modern buildings tend to lead the eye into the blue). This building, originally owned by W. Howell in the 1880s, is in the Italianate style.

The Masonic Hall, next in line on the streetscape, is a dominant structure because of its triangular pediment. Alex McRoberts was the original owner in 1880, but the building is usually named after a later owner, Charles Haas. It once housed a fairly extensive library.

The five-bay original hotel, built in the 1850s by a Mr. Mullen, is now a two-storey structure but could have contained three storeys at one time. The building has a Spanish appearance, thanks to the arch which originally connected the livery stable in the rear to the street.

Next on the street we have two similar Italianate brick structures. The I.G.A. shopping mart was reportedly built in the 1870s, the Chuck MacDonald Hardware store in 1887 by Robert Hickock. The latter began as a tinsmith shop and has continued to sell hardware of some sort to the present day. Both three-storey buildings are of three bays each, with horizontal recessed brick detailing above the windows and below an elaborate cornice in a "semi circular label".

A small, neat building of low proportion is next on the street. Of double design, each section shows a wide glass display window and entrance door.

The final structures in the block are a more

modern building and the 1912 Bank. The latter turns the corner neatly, is in similar scale and proportion to the other buildings, and completes a main street of exceptional charm and aesthetic appeal.

All the buildings on Main Street, St. George, show a respect for proportion of building, shape and placement of windows and doors which is often lacking in modern structures. They are all different, aesthetically pleasing, and relate one to another so that the eye is delighted as it travels down the street. Modern storefronts impede the eye somewhat, but miraculously, one or two original storefronts survive.

The next stop on the mini-tour agenda was the **Old School**. Mrs. Shirley Williams, one of the curators, welcomed the group to the school and explained many of the exhibits in the School Museum. Built in 1893 at a cost of \$8,500.00, the school has an exterior in the classic mode, with a pediment displaying some unique brickwork of a crushed foliate design over a series of five round-headed windows. The latter, plus the huge entrance arch, are a Romanesque Revival touch. Mock pilasters left and right of the entrance protection are formed in brick, and are a part of the classic aspects of the building, as are the dentilled brick brackets of the cornice and the string course dividing the storeys.

As part of their mini-tour of St. George, members and friends of the Brant County Branch visited the home of **Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wehrstein**. The residence, of white clapboard, was built in 1845 by John Lawrason and has been occupied continuously since that time by a member of the family, or someone in his employ. John Lawrason's son Richard, added the rear part of the house in 1910. The interior of the house follows a central-hall plan, with dining room, den and kitchen to the right as one enters, library and living room and screened porch to the left.

The exterior style of the home is Neo-Gothic. This style began in England with the romantic movement and a desire to return to things of the past which were a reminder of a less complicated age. The peaked gable is the main Neo-Gothic element in the Wehrstein home.

The Conservancy group appreciated Mrs. Wehrstein's efforts in displaying many of her family heirlooms in the way of furniture and costumes. Furniture of note included an Empire-style sofa, end-tables, and a turn-of-the-century bedroom suite in elaborately carved wood. Dress of former times included beautiful hand-embroidered chemises, a gentleman's black suit, ladies mourning veil, and a walking-out outfit of Con-

federation times. The pièce-de-resistance was a 1915 bridal dress with accessories, including dainty elbow-length gloves.

Mrs. Catharine Field thanked the Wehrstein family members for their participation in the mini-tour and for their hard work in maintaining an older home for posterity.

The main Conservancy event for May was a **sale of collectibles** which enabled the branch to re-publish its first series of hasti-notes depicting Brantford Homes.

In addition, a delegation attended the tea to recognize the 100th anniversary of **Brant Avenue United Church Manse**. Mr. Mike Keefe, who presented a Conservancy award to Mrs. Margaret Fanjoy, Manse Committee chairman, called attention to the architectural features of the home: the stained cast iron mantelpiece in the drawing room; frosted glass in a geometric pattern surrounding the interior vestibule doors, a stained glass window lighting the stairway. Also of note are the deeply-moulded baseboards and the long hall staircase decorated with fretted volutes.

The exterior of the home, said Mrs. Keefe, was in the Italianate style popular late in the 19th century for buildings of significance. The original wood trim was for the most part intact, while the preferred wooden, rather than aluminum, storm windows were in use of most of the windows. The exterior brick, he said, was in excellent condition.

Exterior details of importance are the elaborate cornice brackets arranged in alternate groups, brick quoins on the corners, brick voussoirs over the curved windows with pressed concrete keystones. As in many Italianate buildings, the first floor window-heads are semi-circular, while the second floor window heads have only a moderate curve. All the windows have four panes each, while there are seven windows on the front façade; one over the door, three over three on the nicely-proportioned bow window. A deep cornice and low-pitched roof complete the Italianate details on the exterior. 135 Brant Avenue is a well-kept home of distinction.

The final program events for Spring 1981 were the **Canada-Week walking tours of East Ward**, conducted by Garry Burns, Audrey Scott and Don Pettitt. A distinctive feature of the tours was the emphasis on "do's" and "don't's" for fixing up older buildings both very evident in the East Ward properties. Alexandra Presbyterian, Colborne St. United and St. Jude's Anglican Churches, which surround Alexandra park, were included in the tours.

## Displays

A new venture for Brant County were the displays of Conservancy events and aims at Glenhyrst Family day. A major new event was the attempt to enter a float in the June 28 Canada Week parade. The latter effort concluded a very busy season for the Brant County Branch.

## NORTH WATERLOO REGION

### A Review of Activities

On May 20th the North Waterloo Region Branch held its first annual general meeting. This took place in the hall of the Church of the Holy Saviour on Allen Street in Waterloo and the speaker was Dr. Talman, historian and member of the Conservation Review Board. Dr. Talman reviewed a number of Board decisions with regard to appeals against designation under the Ontario Heritage Act and in doing so provided a fascinating insight into the activities of the Board. The meeting concluded with coffee and a tour of the attractive little church, which has some beautiful stained glass.

On May 31st in beautiful weather, the members of the branch enjoyed a day trip to the historic towns of the Talbot Settlement. The group visited Port Burwell, Vienna, Aylmer and Sparta which are located to the south-east of London. In Aylmer representatives from Heritage Aylmer kindly showed the group around the Opera House and also provided a short tour of the town. The visit to the Opera House, now undergoing restoration, was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the entire day. The building is extremely impressive and its survival is a testimony to the efforts of a few of the local citizens. This success story is an inspiration to heritage groups everywhere. Three cheers for Aylmer.

After a picnic lunch in a conservation area the group visited the town of Sparta, notable for its Greek revival architecture. Here the group toured the Quaker meeting house and had tea in "The Forge", a mud and straw building now occupied by the local Women's Institute. The tour, which was very informative and enjoyable, was organized and led by Ron Cascaden assisted by his wife Wendy.

The branch has begun preliminary work on the preparation of a book describing the most notable heritage buildings in the area. The group of people involved in this project are making a series of tours to different parts of the region in order to evaluate the buildings that have been nominated for inclusion in the publication. The

tours, which are carefully planned to end at one of Waterloo County's country hotels, are a delightful way to spend a summer's evening.

Plans for activities in the fall include a possible house tour in the Victoria Park area of Kitchener and a mini-lecture series.

## Kitchener Jail Preserved — For A Year

by Chris Moore

A ruling from the Conservation Review Board has halted demolition plans for Kitchener's county jail and governor's residence. After the Board's March 18 ruling confirmed the historic merit of the now-empty buildings, the City of Kitchener designated the property under the Ontario Heritage Act, and on May 28 the Region of Waterloo reversed an earlier decision and voted not to demolish the buildings.

The Jail is quickly becoming a case study in the current state of heritage politics. Despite its merits as the sole survivor of the original county buildings that established Berlin-Kitchener's leadership among the communities of the Grand River Valley, the Jail has had to overcome several handicaps that seemed to be ensuring its destruction.

As a jail, the buildings have all the bad associations that made 999 Queen Street and the Don Jail so hard to preserve. The jail and residence are survivors jammed between modern buildings and parking lots in a community accustomed to demolishing its significant public architecture (the Farmers' Market, City Hall, the other County Buildings) and apparently passive or negative about the jail. Finally, the economic climate made preservation at public expense most unlikely.

In that context, the Region's original decision to demolish the jail seemed almost a reflex action, though only a parking lot was definitely planned to fill the valuable site in central Kitchener.

That demolition did not happen seems a reflection of the latent strength of the architectural conservation movement. There is hardly a well-organized conservation lobby in Kitchener-Waterloo, but when the jail became vacant two years ago, a few community organizations and heritage-minded citizens began looking for alternate uses for the oldest public buildings in the region. The regional municipality's own heritage advisors, the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, funded studies of the building and its future. Proposals for a restaurant, for offices, and for a county archives were examined. The Region rejected all reconsiderations, but once the issue

had been raised, doubts about hasty demolition began to take hold. When the matter came before Kitchener City Council, a majority of the members preferred, if not to support preservation, at least to delay demolition pending full consideration of the merits of the case.

The City's notice of intention to designate, opposed by the Region, brought in the Conservation Review Board, which received several briefs — including one from the local ACO Branch — in favour of designation, preservation and reuse. The CRB's ruling that the jail was indeed worthy of designation under the Ontario Heritage Act seemed to tip the scales at the Region. With the jail's stature so publicly confirmed, the Region rejected a committee recommendation and dropped its plans to demolish. One councillor said he still favoured demolition because the jail is "a dilapidated old thing", but the consensus had shifted behind the councillor who declared, "I don't want to be any part of destroying the history of this community."

The recent decisions not to let the jail be demolished do not ensure its preservation. All that has so far been overcome in this case is the demolish-first-and-plan-later attitude to old public buildings. At the city and at the region, there seems to be no enthusiasm for any substantial commitment of public funds to the jail buildings. What has emerged is support for a fair and reasonable examination of the case for and against the jail's preservation.

The Region's previous proposal to turn this valuable site into a small parking lot for its employees will not be accepted uncritically any more, but neither will suggestions for an expensive museum or historical restoration. The 129 year old jail is only likely to survive into the 1990s if it can find a function that will make it a paying proposition, either in private hands or in public service. In the next year, the County Jail in Kitchener seems likely to test the conservationist claim that preservation and recycling of older buildings make sound economic sense.

## **NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS**

### **WORLD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

Buildings and areas of architectural or historical interest, in all countries, are fast disappearing through neglect and decay, or deliberate demolition; and the special character of towns and villages is being destroyed by incongruous and monotonous new construction. Likewise, regions of exceptional scenic beauty are being

disfigured by unsuitable development. Happily, in recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the seriousness of this problem and of the urgent need to awaken public interest and promote action.

With this object, it was decided in 1963 to create an organization, known as "EUROPA NOSTRA", which is a federation of several thousand independent conservation societies, in some twenty European countries. Its President is Lord Duncan-Sandys, who founded in Britain the Civic Trust, twenty years ago, when he was Minister for Local Government and Planning.

On the recommendation of Europa Nostra, the governments of the Member States of the Council of Europe initiated in 1970 a European Architectural Heritage Campaign, which culminated in the Congress of Amsterdam in 1975. With a view to further developing the momentum built up by this campaign, the European Community decided to sponsor another great congress in Brussels in March 1980, of which Lord Duncan-Sandys was invited to be Chairman.

The undoubted success of these activities in Europe led conservation and tourist organizations in America, Asia and Australasia to the conclusion that an association similar to Europa Nostra should be formed on a world-wide basis, through which independent societies in all countries would exchange information and experience. With their support and encouragement, Lord Duncan-Sandys agreed to take the lead in the establishment of a **WORLD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**.

This new body will be non-governmental. Its primary object will be to awaken among all peoples throughout the world a greater appreciation of their irreplaceable heritage of architectural and natural beauty and to encourage the action required to preserve it, thereby helping to further the realisation of the aims of the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, of 1972.

When the **WORLD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION** is formally constituted, its policy will be directed by a Council comprised of prominent personalities, drawn from many different countries. There will be an Executive Committee and Secretariat, which will be responsible for the organization of its activities.

While preserving its independence, the Association will work in close cooperation with official bodies at national and international levels. The proposal to create a **WORLD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION** has been warmly welcomed by UNESCO and the OECD, both of which have

promised their active assistance.

It will thus be seen that good progress has already been made with the preparations for launching this project, and that widespread interest and influential support are assured.

### HERITAGE TRUST

*To promote among the peoples of the world a greater appreciation of their irreplaceable heritage of architecture and natural beauty and to encourage effective action for its conservation.*

86 VINCENT SQUARE LONDON SW1P 2PG

Tel: 01-834 5886

15th May, 1981

Commonwealth Association of Architects  
from the Honorary Treasurer and  
regional representative for Europe  
14 Richmond Place Brighton Sussex BN2 2PW

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to seek your co-operation in the production of an extensively illustrated publication, dealing with the subject of NEW USES FOR OLD BUILDINGS. The purpose is to encourage people to save old buildings of historic, architectural or ethnic interest, which no longer serve any economically viable purpose, by adapting them to some appropriate new use, while preserving or enhancing their distinctive character.

The publication is to be produced by a new world-wide independent organization, which is being formed with the encouragement of UNESCO, and about which I enclose information.

The Commonwealth Association of Architects and the International Union of Architects are assisting in the preparation of the booklet. We are asking architects and building owners, in many countries, to help us obtain photographs for inclusion in this publication. This will be widely circulated, free of charge, and with versions in several languages.

The photographs should, wherever possible, show the building before and after adaptation. While we would prefer colour prints, black & white prints will be welcome, minimum size 10" x 8" (254 x 203 mm) or 8" x 6" (203 mm x 152 mm). If available, 35 mm transparencies (slides) are best for reproduction. Illustrations of interiors should be included where relevant.

If you possess or are able to obtain suitable photographs, please be good enough to send them to us as soon as possible, together with the following information:

1. Name and address of the project.
2. Date of completion.

3. Names of building owner and architect who carried out the adaptation.
4. Brief description of the work undertaken — maximum 100 words.
5. Assurances that the photographs are submitted with the approval of the architect or building owner and that they are free of copyright or other restriction.

The photographs and accompanying information should be sent to me at 86 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PG, not later than 1st September, 1981. For administrative reasons, it is regretted that photographic material sent to us cannot be returned.

In view of the importance of this subject, we hope very much that you will be able to help us in the task of collecting suitable photographic material. Free copies of the publication will, of course, be sent to all those who have supplied photographs.

Yours sincerely,  
John Wells-Thorpe

### HERITAGE MARKHAM

This association sent a brochure about an interesting conference to be held June 5. The keynote speaker was to be Montreal architect Phyllis Lambert.

(We understand this conference didn't materialize. Ed.)

### HERITAGE OTTAWA

The Domestic Heritage of Ottawa is a small 14 sided folding brochure depicting the historic styles of domestic architecture in Ottawa from 1820 - 1910. Drawings show details of windows, bargeboards, finials, doors, and houses in the Québec and Classical Tradition, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and the Eclectic Period. It is in English and French. Prepared by Lyette Fortin on behalf of Heritage Ottawa in collaboration with the National Capital Commission.

In the April newsletter we note that Bob Haig was giving a talk on the Rideau Canal's 150th Anniversary celebration planned for the summer of 1982. The slides and film depicting the history of the canal must have proved vastly interesting.

### Demolition Warning

It has come to the attention of the Board of Directors that application has been made for demolition of the Italianate Zeller's Building: The

building is located on the south side of Sparks Street and is owned by the Poulin Estate. The block in which the Zeller's Building is located is important to the heritage of the Central Area and its redevelopment with high rise office buildings would change completely the character of Sparks Street destroying its appeal as a pedestrian mall. Members of Heritage Ottawa are asked to help preserve this area by conveying their feelings in writing to the Mayor of Ottawa since this falls within the jurisdiction of the City.

## THE CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY

The Champlain Society is pleased to announce that a few memberships have become available and that application can be made to the Executive Secretary at the Society offices in the Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5J 1E3. Annual membership is \$25.00.

Founded in 1905 the Society has regularly published collections of edited documents, with extensive introductions, on many phases of Canadian society, exploration, politics, business and ethnology. Each volume is self contained, although some form a series on a special topic.

Volumes in the general series are sent to members every year or so and in the Ontario Series about every two years.

## The Macaulay House — (continued)

It was the Reverend William Macaulay who gave the county town its name of Picton, and provided lands for the fine courthouse built in 1832. He also built the Anglican Church about 1827, which after the new one was built in 1911 ceased to be the parish church, being used infrequently until the county took it over in the early 1970s. Macaulay altered his early house, a typical centre hall arrangement with rear kitchen wing, in the early 1850s after his second marriage. Principal changes included a re-arrangement of the reception rooms and the enlargement of the drawing room, as well as the addition of a summer kitchen and quarters for extra help above, and possible extension of the drivehouse and woodshed. This last was torn down less than twenty years ago but has been reconstructed from archaeological and photographic evidence. An old stone stable has survived. The final restoration will include the smokehouse and privy, further cultivation of the garden and additions to the landscape, continuing work already in hand. The site also will include an orchard of old-fashioned apple varieties.

The work has been undertaken by the County of Prince Edward, assisted by grants from Wintario and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, with generous local support and volunteer effort in its operation. At the entrance the plaque commemorating the event was unveiled by Lt. Col. Miles Cameron, representing the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Mrs. Jeanne Minhinick CM, consultant responsible for furnishing and decoration, and herself of the county, unveiled a plaque at the house honouring the generosity of the local people contributing to the project. Other noted participants included The Rt. Rev. Alan Read, Bishop of Ontario and Canon John Neal, Rector of St. Mary Magdalene, Mr. Jack Ellis, M.P., Hon. James Taylor, Q.C., M.L.A., Mr. Lewis Wight, Warden of the County, Mr. Don King, Mayor of Picton, Brigadier-General W. J. Patterson, Superintendent of Historic Sites, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, who spoke on the importance of preserving our heritage as represented by the Macaulay House, Mr. Philip Shackleton who informally gave an inkling of the process, especially of finding material. Mrs. Marilyn Robbins, as chairman of the Museum Board, officiated as MC. Peter John Stokes, consulting restoration architect on the project spoke of the architectural significance of the house and some of its puzzling qualities.

The weather was superb: all present seemed to enjoy the proceedings. Descendants of William Macaulay were there to view the house. Bill Kingsley who undertook much of the early work of restoration and his successor, Bert Blackford, were on hand to be congratulated on their achievement. And Thomas Walker, County Clerk-Treasurer, who made the work possible and so much more pleasurable was there too, quietly taking his seat in the audience, seemingly bashful lest a bow, albeit well-earned, appeared immodest. Margery Dissette is the curator of the Macaulay House, Don MacDermaid, curator of the museum, Alix Gronau being the director of the complex.

Visiting hours are 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, open holiday Mondays from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving. Tours can be arranged at other times, special events occur on occasion. Baking in the brick oven is carried on every Wednesday; other domestic chores are demonstrated from time to time. Admission is free, although donations are always welcome. To reach the Macaulay House travelling east from Toronto take the Wooler Road from Highway 2 or 401 to Highway 33 to Picton, continue through the town to the stop sign at the end of Main Street, follow

Highway 33 across the creek at the head of the harbour and veer right up Bridge Street past the Courthouse to the blinker at Union Street. Turn right past the County Museum (the old church) to the Macaulay House lane; parking is to the right behind the fence. Both the Macaulay House and the Museum are worth your time. From Highway 49 (401 Marysville interchange), Highway 2 at Deseronto, make your way to the stop at the end of Main Street as before, turning left and follow on as previously. From Kingston follow 33 to Picton (via the Adolphustown/Glenora ferry), turn around to Bridge Street before crossing the creek and continue as above.

## JULY COUNCIL MEETING

Members of Council, Advisory Board, and the editor of ACORN met on July 19 at East Garafraxa, at the farm of President and Mrs. William J. Moffet. After the morning meeting luncheon was enjoyed by some members on the screened-in porch, while others partook of theirs on the lawn. A few members cooled-off in the pool, and after tea good-byes were said with many heartfelt thanks for an enjoyable day.

## SUCH IS LIFE

(without the power, but ten times worse with just the tower) — to paraphrase a well known saying — highlights the miserable miles of pylons ruining the southern view from highway 401 east of Bowmanville just as you leave the Toronto-centred conurbation for a more picturesque countryside. As this monstrous visual insult hops its way to and fro between Darlington and the now defunct Wesleyville thermal station (put on ice indefinitely and, except for its towering building and blinking overbearing chimney, largely dismantled) one wonders what possessed those involved to locate it so — obviously with their eyes shut to its effect upon the landscape and the more aware drivers along our superbly ugly highways. There is hardly a cross country trip across the southern part of this province which is left inviolate by these horrible eyesores gobbling up land almost as fast if not faster than highways. The last southern Ontario county to be spared the monsters, Prince Edward, has finally succumbed to Progress — and a new line, albeit for once more discreetly located and designed, tries to waltz its wireway across Highway 49 south of Deseronto.

## CURRENT ALARMS

### ST MARYS

The historic pre-Confederation (1865) three-arched stone bridge carrying the highway over the Thames in St. Marys is now found to be deficient and requires extensive reinforcement. Consultants have so far come up with a figure of a quarter of a million dollars extra over its replacement by a modern structure. Very few early bridges survive, certainly those constructed of masonry, the one at Pakenham near Ottawa is one famous example and the old bridge at Lyndhurst another rarity. The problem needs some imaginative thought and review in order to retain the historic St. Marys bridge noted as a local landmark. Your support for the preservation of the old bridge in letters to the Mayor and Council or to the St. Marys Journal-Argus would be welcomed.

## GROWING NOTES

### Old-Fashioned Roses

Congratulations to Mr. Schraven who a quarter of a century ago started Pickering Nurseries, so famous nationally and internationally for its growing of old-fashioned rose varieties. The annual rose catalogue, with its antique roses given dates for their origin, is a feast of material worth cultivating, but demand often outstrips supply and orders have to be placed well in advance. The nursery sales station is at 670 Kingston Road (near White's Road), Pickering, Ontario L1V 1A6 (Phone 416-839-2111). If you believe this constitutes free advertising — it is vital information to those interested in gardening, particularly in older rose types, about a noteworthy Ontario institution which has had its sad experiences too. After Mr. Schraven had taken years to develop his rosefields in the Altona area, his land was expropriated for the North Pickering community and proposed airport construction. Then he learnt that his land was not needed for some time, if ever, and he could lease it back — what a bitter outcome. But he is now developing a new rosefield on a hundred acres near Newcastle — we wish him well with every success to a most exciting enterprise.

### Historic Orchards

The orchard of old-fashioned apple varieties at the Macaulay House is being grafted on rootstock by Henry Gray, a retired Ontario Hydro man, who lives on the Glenora Road outside Picton. He had collected some forty-four varieties

at the start of his project and since has added half as many again. Mr. Gray has made this his hobby and has looked around Prince Edward County and even further afield to secure once well-known but no longer popular varieties. This with collections elsewhere promises to be helpful in setting up the historic orchards of the future.

### Settlers' Rose Identified

A meeting once again with Ann Leighton, that fascinating author on historic American gardens and gardening, finally identified the cinnamon rose as that charming double pink briar-like bush with cinnamon brown stems, hence its name. It grows as a low shrub, often in a pillar form with short side branches. This is often an escape, or a survivor on abandoned sites, seen in Halton Region and Lanark County in Ontario, and along the St. John River in New Brunswick among other places: our sample came from the edge of the graveyard to the 1809 White Chapel just outside Picton.

### THE NEWBURGH STUDY

The Newburgh Study is virtually complete and an edited version has been prepared for publication. The master copies will be available to the community, the Ontario Archives and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Rogues' Hollow, the Story of the Village of Newburgh through its Buildings, will be available in the published version it is hoped early next year. Assistance is being sought to help defray the costs of printing and illustration so that the book can be made available at a reasonable price to those interested in this monograph on a significant early community of the province. You will be kept informed of developments and any pre-publication prices and other incentives which may be offered.

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May 1981

128 Woolwich Street,  
Guelph, Ont. N1H 3V2

### Letter To The Editor

Dear Mrs. Garland:

In the most recent issue of Acorn (VI-1), page 4, "Research Hints at the Importance of the Dundurn Landscape", David Bain and Mike Leonard stated that

"... Dundurn was the foremost of a number of fine landscapes that were designed in the early days of Hamilton...."

We know very little of Laing's design and execution at Dundurn other than correspondence between Laing and McNabb prior to initiation of work. Laing's design may, or may not have been, his "foremost". This is complete supposition by Messrs. Bain and Leonard. No extant plans have been found of the Laing-Dundurn landscape. Little evidence exists of the landscape today.

By the way, Laing did a re-make of the Dundurn landscape. The original was done by Alexander Reid at the time of the building of Dundurn. This landscape was in the "English Landscape" tradition and apparently suited the wilderness site well. Laing's work, we suppose, was like his other work in the Hamilton area, done in the "Gardenesque" style.

For more information, please refer to APT Bulletin, Vol. IX, No. 3, 1977 "George Laing-Landscape Gardener, Hamilton, Canada West 1808 (Aberdeen) - 1871 (Hamilton), Paul Grimwood, Owen Scott and Marilyn Watson; or Landscape Architecture Canada, Vol. 4, No. 1, April 1978. (same paper).

Yours very truly,

THE LANDPLAN COLLABORATIVE LTD.

Owen R. Scott

### AROUND AND ABOUT:

#### Happenings in Ontario

#### ALBURY

Albury is a rural community of the Township of Ameliasburgh in the north-west corner of Prince Edward County, fronting the Bay of Quinte and located on the road between Rednersville and the Carrying Place. The local landmark is Albury Church constructed in 1898 to serve various Protestant denominations in the area. Although with a datestone noting "Methodist", this was apparently an early ecumenical experiment and in order to save the building it has reverted to that status although sharing the services of a local United Church minister.

The trustees asked Advisory Board Member Peter John Stokes to comment on its architectural and historical significance. Historically its inter-denominational character is noteworthy. Architecturally it is also of considerable interest and of great merit as a late Victorian country church building little changed from its original design. The building is set high over a basement hall with a tall tower with mansard roof to one side of the front crowning one entrance and a balancing

entrance vestibule on the other. The sanctuary is formed by an apsidal end. The structure is of wood frame clad in brick veneer, and now needing some attention and repairs. Inside the auditorium is particularly fascinating being a well preserved example of the turn-of-the-century patterned tin finish applied to walls and ceiling, the hemisphere vault of the apse cleverly devised in radiating segments.

The United Church in Wooler, dated 1903, is an Edwardian copy of the same design, but without the same majestic setting of the Albury building alongside the roadway, isolated in front of its churchyard. Moreover the Wooler church is apparently not interdenominational.

## GRAFTON

A year ago Grafton's main street received new pavement, curbs and sidewalks as part of the improvement of the Kingston Road (Highway 2) between Cobourg and Trenton. The village, despite these improvements, retained its essential character for the main corner still had its cluster of historic and architecturally significant buildings. The old hotel still stands, complete with its beautiful doorcase and hall window above, although the exterior is temporarily covered in aluminum "clapboard". The Town Hall in brick is a very handsome design occupying a prominent site opposite the main intersection:

The same intersection, on the opposite side, is dominated by a fascinating building, latterly a general store, which follows the curious obtuse angle of the corner (4), thus being a trapezoid in plan. Down the side street beyond is a noteworthy range of early shopfronts in a long frame structure (5), the end unit now devoted to the local



GRAFTON, Ontario

The old general store and its c. 1840 neighbour on the side street: an historic grouping.



GRAFTON, Ontario

Western part of the apartment complex recently damaged by fire, and the former hotel beyond, with the Municipal Hall in the background.

post office. The corner building, finished in stucco and with a porch along its street fronts, is now vacant and was damaged by fire internally, but no serious structural damage occurred. More recently the small house now forming an extension to the former hotel, as part of the complex converted to apartments (6), was seriously charred by fire. But this was not the only concern of local citizens.

The post office apparently requires more space or a new facility. Several sites have been investigated, that favoured being the corner now occupied by the old general store. Local citizens sought support for its conversion to the new post office, noting its historical and architectural significance and particularly its vital contribution to the historic streetscape of the village core. A meeting was called of the Advisory Board of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, chaired by President W. J. Moffet and including Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe and others from the Port Hope Branch, as well as Peter John Stokes. Recommendations were made in the report to save the old general store and seek its conversion, possibly as the post office, for its central location would best serve the local people, and to make sure that its exterior design was preserved. Reference was also made to the importance of conserving the other important historic buildings of the village centre.

Some interesting facts were discovered about the store building in the course of the brief investigation. Not only was it sound generally, and very little damage had been caused to the structure, although finishes, mostly modern coverings, had been more seriously affected, but the build-

ing was an old form of fire-resistant type. The walls were of solid lumber, the "sawmill plank construction" of one inch thick boards, some four or so inches wide, laid one on top of the other and spiked together, with alternate layers offset to provide an external key for stucco finish and an internal key for plaster. The original store windows on the front were still in place, and the bull's-eye lighting the front section of the half storey above the store decorates the gable front. Most of the porch posts are original and resemble the slender turned wood columns supporting the cross beams inside.

## KITCHENER

The historic Waterloo County Gaol, now owned by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, was designated by the City of Kitchener on historical grounds. Objections were raised by the regional municipality and a Conservation Review Board Hearing was called. The Board recommended in favour of designation of the building on its historic value, although there had been evidence brought forward of its architectural interest.

(There are very few older buildings of a civic nature, gaols not excluded, which do not possess some architectural interest if not considerable merit, such as Prince Edward County's Court-house of 1832 and its beautifully constructed gaol addition of the 1860s. However a comparison of the treatment of Barrie's City Hall with the old illustration of its original 1870s splendour in the *Living Past* shows how completely unthinking modernization can destroy a building of significance.)

## LONDON

### Excerpt from the Special Souvenir Edition of the Grand Theatre

Touring shows were the attraction and the most lavish of these would book themselves into the magnificent old Grand Opera House. The candy-cake showplace attracted the best of the international touring companies until the quiet evening when suddenly the London sky-line erupted with flames. Within minutes of the first alarm the old Opera House was reduced to ashes.

Ambrose J. Small, a Toronto theatrical entrepreneur, wasted no time in adding the lucrative London market to his chain of theatres. With Col.

C. J. Whitney of Detroit, Small purchased land on the west side of Richmond Street, next door to the Western Hotel and on September 9, 1901, opened the new Grand Opera House.

The first production in the new Grand was *Way Down East*, but the show didn't get as much of a review as did the new theatre. The London Free Press critically described the exterior of the Opera House as "having the appearance of a car barn with cold storage at the rear." Five years later H. W. Gardner of the London Free Press surveyed it with a different and more glowing eye. Gardner's praise distinguished the theatre as having a stage accommodation second to none on the continent with the ability of staging the largest of productions. The article continued: "Its appointments in front of the curtain line are also the equal of any house in the Dominion and the seating accommodation is most extensive. The illumination of the theatre, its decorative effects and furnishings are all worthy of commendations. The building is thoroughly protected against fire hazard with all appliances of the most modern kind while the number of exits is far in excess of the requirements of the underwriters or municipal public-safety regulations. The exterior of the building is of handsome design, the veneer being of red pressed bricks."

"There is an elaborate canopy about the main entrance from Richmond Street, affording protection to patrons of the house who come or leave by motor or other vehicle." Other vehicle being private carriage or in rigs rented from a livery stable.

One of the earliest attractions to play at the Grand Opera House was the Russian Symphony Orchestra, which was followed by the great Polish pianist-patriot, Ignace Jan Paderewski. Dame Sybil Thorndyke appeared with the Ben Greet Players in 1907 and the legendary French dramatic actress, Sarah Bernhardt made at least two of her final farewell appearances at the Grand with her famous, if not infamous, rosewood coffin. Miss Bernhardt was the first of many great 'legends' who appeared. The impressive list of some of the notables were: Anna Held, Florenze Zeigfeld, The Dumbells, Barry Fitzgerald, Bela Lugosi, Jessica Tandy, Clifton Webb, Donald Wolfit, Gracie Fields, Margaret Rutherford, Madeleine Carroll, Lillian Russell, Conrad Nagel, Shirley Booth, Harry Lauder, Blackstone the Magician, Michael Redgrave, John Gielgud, Flora Robson, Sidney Poitier, Ossie Davis, Cedric Hardwick, Lili Palmer, Frederic March, Hume Cronyn, Edward Everett Horton, Joan Bennett

and Zachary Scott. In 1950, a young Canadian actor who was beginning to make a name for himself, appeared for the first time on the Grand stage: his name, William Hutt.  
(Editor's note. The Grand Theatre has been restored and refurbished).

## OLD NIAGARA (Niagara-on-the-Lake)

The yearly influx of summer visitors threatens to erode the old town's historic character, and private developers seem only too willing to oblige. Once the province's most notable historic and architecturally significant collection of early 19th century buildings, the old town seems unlikely to survive unscathed into its third century. Destruction is accelerating as piecemeal attempts to solve long term problems fail to cope with the situation. A remarkable resource, fascinating to view and enjoy walking about, is fast deteriorating due first to lack of discipline locally, approaches which



NIAGARA-on-the-Lake

The demise of the historic Alma Store of 1825 at the corner of Queen and Regent Streets in old Niagara: since replaced by an inaccurate copy.

are not comprehensive and disinterested, and finally to an inability it would seem to initiate the drastic reforms necessary to conserve this once invaluable asset. It has often been said that decline and depression result in survival if conservation is practised, that prosperity leads to erosion. While nobody would wish a return to the doldrums of the 1930s, the current wave of destruction (7) and (8) and nostalgic infilling, meaningless in terms of real historic quality and architectural merit (unless you wish to have old Niagara as the most noteworthy example of Neo-Beserk(c) of the late 20th century), is heartrending to the dedicated preservationist who has so



NIAGARA-on-the-Lake

Piecemeal destruction to serve short term solutions to long term problems: the first house has been removed on Regent Street to destroy an historic streetscape to gain access to an inner block parking area tending to disrupt the fragile balance of this once remarkable town.

admired this town and savoured it in the past. Cluttered by cars, fumed by buses, hordes of tramping feet, the last though welcome, overcrowding the mean, broken sidewalks, Queen, the main street, is unbelievable on a midsummer weekend. On a midsummer night some tranquillity returns after the loads of spent wine and liquor bottles are tossed, clattering, into the open waste bins of hotels at one-thirty in the morning.

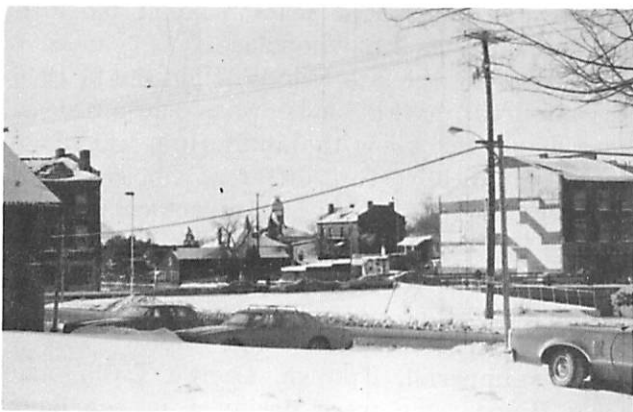
What can be done about it? — take management in hand, out of the political arena and do the job the old town and its province deserves. This is the 999 problem in even deadlier earnest.

## PORT HOPE

The Port Hope Branch of the ACO continues to serve as advisor to local businesses wishing to improve the appearance of downtown buildings by coordinating colour schemes and offering to help offset the cost of paint to those whose proposals meet the criteria. Peter John Stokes serves as a consultant from time to time. One or two changes have already been undertaken along the lines of recommendations made in the Walton Street Study of the 1970s. The restoration of the front to the Smith/Russell Block (cover Acorn VI - 1) brought another notable building block into focus. The block immediately to the west has been painted in a common colour scheme for the upper storeys. Several suggestions have been put forward for individual shopfront treatments, some being completed on Ontario Street,

including the new premises of the Magpie.

While old Niagara suffers depredations at the hands of man, man adds to the destructions of flood in downtown Port Hope: now a gaping hole (9) exists on the south side of Walton Street adjoining the Ganaraska River where the 1875-77 two storey Riordan Block (a former post office) adjoining No. 1 Walton to the east and the three storey Fire Hall of 1871, badly damaged by swirling debris, was demolished next to the Kelly-O'Connor Building to the west. There seems to be some evil force trying to balance the ruin of the streetscape at the other end, where the demolition of the old Sculthorpe Block some years ago was followed by the removal of two houses after one had its front blown out by a gas explosion. Nevertheless we trust that both ends will never meet the middle — otherwise the town may have to be renamed Port Hopeless!



#### PORT HOPE

The gaping hole on the south side of Walton Street after the removal of the Riordan Block to the left and the old Fire Hall, (the stair locations and floors of the latter still visible on the remaining building), demolished to the right.

#### LACAC

LACAC chairman, Mell Chapple, approached the Town's Planning Board to discuss the concept of a Heritage Conservation District in the downtown core. After setting up a sub-committee to study this matter Planning Board is recommending that the Town Council amend the official plan to include a heritage policy statement. This is the first step towards the implementation of a Heritage Conservation District.

The Port Hope City Dairy is the latest building to be designated by LACAC.

The Port Hope Architectural and Historical Inventory sponsored by LACAC under a federally funded Canada Community Development Project grant of \$17,400 continues. It is expected to wind

up on the first of August. The three women working on the project have aimed at a comprehensive in-depth study of the buildings in the downtown area. Many of the residential buildings have also been studied, but because of the limited time element involved they received less emphasis than those along Walton Street. Sources from which the team gleaned information were the Port Hope registry office, the Archives in Toronto and Peterborough, old maps, directories, newspapers and the town library. The women came upon the assessment sheets in the Trent University Archives quite by accident and said they had no idea why they were recorded there. The historical data which has been compiled during the project will become the property of LACAC, and may be published in a limited edition.

#### PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

Besides the official opening of the Macaulay House in Picton recently (see cover caption) the county has set up a LACAC acting on behalf of all the local municipalities except one. The Township of Ameliasburg, (scene of the saving of the old Methodist Church steeple a short time ago), intends to form one of its own for the time being.

Regardless of what might seem divided loyalty at this time, the county is engaged on an Historic Architectural Survey of Prince Edward (HASPE



#### THE PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1832, Picton

A fine example of the early courthouses in the province. The gaol extension to the rear is a finely executed design of the 1860s, and the gaol yard to the right has been roofed and converted to the County Registry Office.

for short) which will provide the necessary survey information as background to the LACAC's activities. The survey is already underway, having started in the Township of South Marysburgh, where the summer home of Jeanne and Bat Minhinnick is located. The surveyor is Tom Cruickshank, landscape architect, and our accomplished researcher on the Newburgh Study. Work is under the direction of Peter John Stokes, long an admirer of the county's buildings, landscape and people.

## ST. MARYS

St. Marys Junction Station (10) has been leased by the Town from CN in order to preserve it for the time being. Abandoned several years ago, the building, despite considerable recent vandalism, remains in remarkably good structural condition. It survives on its original site beside the western extension of the Grand Trunk. Con-



ST. MARYS JUNCTION STATION 1858

Illustrating the original design of Grand Trunk railway stations with wide eaves, deep verges and round arched openings with double doors to platform level.

structed in 1858 it follows the original design of the Peto, Brassey and Betts stations to the Montreal/Toronto section. With low pitched roof, broad bracketed verges and wide cantilevered eaves it also exhibits the original detail of round arched openings extending to platform level and provided with double doors. This feature was changed by infilling the lower section to form a window in most of the other stations (see Ernestown p. 13 Acorn IV - 1 and Shannonville, now demolished, in Ontario Towns, Plate 48).

Uses for the old station are to be explored in a future study. One of the principal problems (and probably the sole reason for its survival for so long) is the remoteness of the station, over a

mile from the centre of town. Incidentally the turn-of-the-century replacement in brick on the north-south connection to London located near the highway is no longer in service either, but serves a hairdresser and other uses at present.

A visit to St. Marys is well worth a day, to view the Victorian shop-fronts and fine stone buildings of the town including the magnificent Opera House block, the range of three historic and architecturally significant buildings recently designated by the Town after a favourable recommendation by the Conservation Review Board.

## TORONTO

### Toronto's University Theatre

The University Theatre, although not a movie palace in the strict sense of the word, is nonetheless a fine movie theatre. Its less than 1500 comfortable and well-spaced seats make it too intimate to qualify as a movie palace.

Designed by the late Eric W. Hounson in 1946 its contoured, backlit side walls, designed in waves of plaster, allow the auditorium to change colour periodically for different moods. The spacious two-storey lobby and spectacular marquee are fine examples of the 'art moderne' style.

Because the University was designed well after sound movies were invented it works especially well for stereophonic and "Dolby" sound. Toronto's Imperial, Uptown, Loew's Tivoli, and Shea's Hippodrome were designed in the days when sound movies were unheard of and as a result, never did have as good a sound as does the University. The University's wide screen has been moved far forward of the original thus altering the excellent sight lines as well as reducing the number of seats.

This fine theatre could easily be adapted to present live performances by removing the back wall behind the stage and extending the stage and building dressing rooms there.

Many people feel that Toronto's "University" is the best theatre in which to see and hear a movie today.

If the University and the Elgin are demolished there will be no movie theatres left in downtown Toronto.

Where will we see the premier of our own Canadian made movies? Must the "giant screen" be replaced by a "Cineplex" or other mini cinemas?

## WARKWORTH

Several citizens including some members of

Percy Township Council and three members of the Advisory Board met and toured Warkworth on the 13th of June, 1981, to view and assess the architectural heritage of the village and to discuss guidelines for the conservation and enhancement of that fascinating community. Much local interest has been kindled in the project of improvement being covered by a grant, but the group gathered to hear the Advisory Board's views on their proposals. This village, of some six hundred souls, has great charm, a commercial centre of great individuality requiring suitable handling, and a site beyond compare. Many buildings of architectural interest were identified to suggest that a concerted effort for community conservation should be put in hand to protect older commercial structures in the core and to ensure that essential details of porch trim, verandahs, bargeboards and bay windows, the latter usually with bowed pagoda-like drops and finials, did not disappear. It was a day enjoyed by all. There are the seven hills surrounding Warkworth, dubbed by local residents, the Hub of Northumberland County: The seven ways to Warkworth are all scenic routes leading to the village. If you would like one special treat take Highway 45 north from Cobourg towards Hastings and turn east on the Bernley sideroad to pass Primrose Hall and arrive over Cemetery Hill.

Jane Beecroft of the Heritage Ganaraska Foundation in Port Hope was the prime mover in bringing together the Conservancy Advisory Board and the Percy Township Council.



The Advisory Board of the ACO represented here by three members, left to right: Howard V. Walker, Peter John Stokes, and Howard D. Chapman, at Warkworth on 13th of June, 1981.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Edna Thompson, Warworth.

## WHITBY

An excellent collection of photographs of significant historic buildings in the Town of Whitby, most taken by the well-known photographer Hugh Robertson, and supplemented by a few smaller prints, were on display in the Whitby Public Library for several weeks. The exhibit also included the history of the development of Port Whitby. It was a particularly interesting sampling of local architecture which included buildings from the whole of the new town of Whitby now incorporating the former township area. Of special charm was the belfried board and batten Anglican Church in Brooklin, a design very reminiscent of the Bishop Medley churches of New Brunswick and of about the same period 1860-75.

Most of the photographs were framed, protecting them and making moving and setting up as an exhibition easier. The project was initiated to promote the work of the Whitby LACAC and to interest local citizens in their building heritage. This is an encouragement to other groups, such as LACACs and ACO branches, to make up similar exhibits for travelling locally and more widely as an inspiration to others still struggling in the field. Correspondence or a call to the Whitby Public Library would probably initiate arrangements for the Whitby exhibit to be seen elsewhere.

It is sad to report that the instigator and chief supporter of this project, Eugene Henry, who retired to his family home in Port Whitby, died earlier this year. He was well-known locally for his support of preservation and his particular interest in the history and interpretation of the harbour, as well as being concerned with conservation while in Ottawa. Mr. Henry will be missed, not only by his family, but by Whitby, for which his exhibition proved yet another memorial.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### Trace

Trace, a new Canadian magazine devoted to architecture in all its facets, including preservation and the related arts, promises to be an informative and exciting new publication under the editorship of architect George Baird. The first issue circulated in April of this year included a number of fascinating articles such as that about three buildings by John M. Lyle, a walking tour of some of Halifax's older buildings, the intriguing Art Deco house of architect Ernest Cormier in Montreal, and a description of the

Canadian Centre for Architecture, an architectural archives in Montreal, by Phyllis Lambert. George Baird may be remembered for his presentation of the changing downtown faces of three Ontario communities, Brockville, Napanee, and Brantford, and Phyllis Lambert is well-known for her great support of preservation in Montreal and her many contributions to the field across this country. Both editor and contributors have their hearts in the right place and write well. The magazine is nicely produced and illustrated. The first issue augurs well for its success. A long-felt need may at last be filled. Subscriptions are \$20.00 per year. Enquiries should be forwarded to Trace Subscription Department, 69 Front Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1R3. Telephone: (416) 362-5907.

### **Historic Streetscapes of Huron County**

Written and illustrated by Nicholas Hill

This book, the third written and illustrated by Nicholas Hill, looks at the rich architectural heritage in the towns, villages, and hamlets of Huron County.

The author, prior to starting his own practice in 1976, was a planner with the Huron County Planning Department. He has an English degree in architecture and a Master of Urban Design degree from the University of Toronto.

The book is beautifully illustrated with easy to read diagrams and maps.

Copies may be obtained from: The Secretary, Huron County Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, 84 Arthur Street, Goderich, Ontario N7A 2L8. Price per copy: \$5.00 (mailing 75 cents extra).

### **Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950**

Research and manuscript preparation are continuing on a Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada for the period 1800 - 1950. Begun in 1976, it is expected that this work will be ready for publication in late 1983. The work is being edited and compiled by Robert G. Hill, an honours graduate of the School of Architecture at the University of Toronto (1972), and at present a practicing architect in Toronto. Interested individuals who can provide additional information on architects in this country practicing during the study period are invited to write the editor at: The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, Box 1066, Station A, 17 Front Street W., Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G6.



We are receiving requests by mail for copies of ACORN, and also requests to be put on our subscription list. These letters have been answered stating that ACORN is not for sale and suggesting that the writers join the nearest ACO branch and receive three copies a year.



We are always glad to receive pictures which accompany articles. If you wish these pictures returned, please send a stamped, addressed envelope. Ed.

Please send any change of address to your branch secretary and also to Mrs. Margaret Wulff, A.C.O., 191 College Street, Toronto, M5T 1P7. In this way it can be put on the master mailing list.

**ACO's Address: 191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P7**

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